THE CONNOISSEUR.

By Mr. *TOWN*,

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——*Sex paratur aut decem ſophos nummis.*
Secreta quære carmina, et rudes curas,
Quas novit unus, ſcrinioque ſignatas
Cuſtodit ipſe virginis pater chartæ.
Mercare tales ab eo, nec ſciet quiſquam. MART.

To Mr. TOWN.

SIR,

AMONG the many *Regiſter Offices* erected within theſe few years paſt, I am ſurprized that no ſcheme of the like nature has been thought of for the ſervice of literature; and that no place has been ſet apart, where Literary Commodities of every ſort might be diſpoſed of; where men of learning might meet with employment, and where others, who want their aſſiſtance, might be ſure to

meet with men of learning. There is nothing of this kind in being at preſent, except among the bookſellers; who have made a monopoly of the trade, and engroſſed the whole market to themſelves. To remedy this inconvenience, my deſign is to ſet up a LITERARY REGISTER OFFICE: for which purpoſe I intend to hire the now uſeleſs theatre in *Lincolns Inn Fields*, and convert it into a mart for the ſtaple commodities of the literary commonwealth. I ſhall here fit up apartments for the reception of my authors, who will be employed from time to time in ſupplying the public with the requiſite manufactures. This ſcheme, will, I doubt not, meet with great encouragement, as it is of general utility: and I do not remember any deſign of the ſame nature, except at a barber's on the other ſide the water, who has hung out a board over his ſhop with the following inſcription —— *Letters read and written for Servants and others.*

I SHALL always have a freſh aſſortment of goods in the beſt taſte and neweſt faſhion: as of Novels for example, while the humour of reading them is prevalent among all ranks of people. For this branch I ſhall retain a very eminent maſter-novelliſt, to cut out adventures and intrigues; and ſhall employ a proper number of hands to finiſh the work with all poſſible care and expedition: and if any ladies of quality, or others, chuſe to furniſh their own materials for Memoirs and Apologies, they may have them done up, and be fitted exactly, at my Office. Beſides ſeveral others, which my men ſhall get up with the greateſt diſpatch, I can aſſure you I have myſelf worked night and day, and have already finiſhed ſix and thirty ſheets of the Hiſtory of Miſs *Sukey Sapling*, Written by Herſelf.

PAMPHLETS

PAMPHLETS of all ſorts ſhall be compoſed, whenever any popular ſubject ſtarts up, that is likely to engage the attention of the public. Every new play ſhall be followed by an *Examen* or *Remarks:* all riots at either play-houſe will afford ſcope for *Letters to the Managers*; and every new actor or actreſs produce theatrical criticiſms. Poetry, you know, Mr. TOWN, is a mere drug; but I ſhall always have a number of ready-made Odes by me, which may be ſuited to any Great Man, dead or alive, in place or out of place. I ſhall alſo have a large bundle of *Poems on ſeveral Occaſions*, very proper for any gentleman or lady, who chuſes to publiſh by ſubſcription; beſides a more ordinary ſort of Hymns to the Morning, Verſes on the Death of ——, Odes to Miſs *A. B. C.* Acroſtics and Rebuſſes, for the uſe of the Magazines: to be ſold a penny-worth, with allowance to thoſe who take a great quantity.

WITH regard to Law matters, as they have no ſort of connexion with wit or learning, I ſhall not concern myſelf with their unintelligible jargon; nor preſume to interfere with thoſe authors in parchment, who meaſure their words by the foot-rule, and ſell their writings at ſo much *per* line. However, I ſhall furniſh young Students of the ſeveral Inns of Court with complete Canons of Criticiſm, and Opinions on any new theatrical Caſes; on which they may argue very learnedly at a tavern, or plead at the bar of a coffee-houſe. For Medical ſubjects, I ſhall procure a learned Graduate by *Diploma* from abroad, whoſe practice will not ſo much take up his time as to prevent his being at leiſure to write occaſional treatiſes, ſetting forth the virtues of any newly-invented Powder, or newly-diſcovered Water. He ſhall alſo draw up the advertiſements for medicines, that remove all

all diſeaſes, and are never known to fail; he ſhall compile the wonderful accounts of their ſurpriſing cures; and furniſh caſes that never happened, and affidavits that were never made. With reſpect to Divinity, as I have reaſon to believe that controverſial writings will be often called for, I intend to bargain with the *Robin Hood* Society to undertake in the lump to furniſh my Office with Defences of Lord *Bolingbroke*, &c. and till I can procure ſome poor curate out of the country, or ſervitor from the univerſity, to write the *Manuſcript Sermons of eminent Divines lately deceaſed, warranted originals*, I muſt make ſhift with the *Fleet Parſons* now out of buſineſs.

Though I ſhall not keep any dramatic works ready made by me, (as theſe commodities are apt to grow ſtale and out of faſhion,) yet either of the theatres may be ſerved with tragedy, comedy, farce, or the like, by beſpeaking them, and giving but three days notice. For the comic pieces I ſhall employ a poet, who has long worked for the drolls at *Bartholomew* and *Southwark* fairs, and has printed a comedy as it was *half* acted at *Drury-Lane*. My tragedies will be furniſhed by a *North Briton*, who walked up to *London* from his native country laſt winter with a moſt ſublime tragedy in his coat-pocket, and which is now to be diſpoſed of to the beſt bidder. Any old play of *Shakeſpeare* or *Ben Johnſon* ſhall be pieced with modern ones according to the preſent taſte, or cut out in airs and recitative for an *Engliſh Opera*. Rhymes for Pantomimes may be had, to be ſet to the clack of a mill, the tinkling of a tin caſcade, or the ſlaps of *Harlequin*'s wooden ſword. The proprietors of our public Gardens, during the ſummer ſeaſon, may be alſo

ſupplied

ſupplied from my Office with Love-Songs to a new burthen, or comic Dialogues in *Crambo*; and words ſhall at any time be fitted to the muſic, after the tunes are compoſed.

As I propoſe to make my Office of general utility, every thing that bears the leaſt affinity to literature will be naturally comprehended in my Scheme. Members of Parliament may be ſupplied with Speeches on any political ſubject; and Country Juſtices may, on directing a letter to the Office poſt paid, have Charges to the Jury at the Quarter Seſſions ſent down to them by the firſt coach or waggon. Addreſſes on particular occaſions ſhall be drawn up for the worſhipful mayor and aldermen of any city or corporation: Laws, Rules, Regulations, or Orders, ſhall be formed for the *Anti-Gallicans*, *Ubiquarians*, *Gregorians*, or any private clubs and ſocieties. *N. B.* The *Free Maſons* may depend upon ſecreſy.

MANY advantages may likewiſe accrue to the polite world from the eſtabliſhment of my Office. Gentlemen and ladies may have *Billet-doaux* written for them with the moſt ſoft and languiſhing expreſſions: Meſſage Cards, and Invitations to Routs, ſhall be filled up and circulated at ſo much *per* hundred, or undertaken in the groſs at a fixed price all the year round. Beaux may be accommodated with letters of gallantry to ſend to their laundreſſes, or have them copied out in a faſhionable female ſcrawl, and directed to themſelves; which they may ſhew about as coming from ladies of quality in love with them. Gentlemen who love fighting, but cannot write, may have challenges pen'd for them in the true ſtile and ſpirit of a modern Blood.

THERE are many other conveniencies arising from ſuch an Office, which it would be too tedious to enumerate: and it will be found to be no leſs beneficial to you authors, Mr. TOWN, than thoſe other *Regiſter Offices* are to men and maid-ſervants. If an author (for example) wants employment, or is out of place, he has nothing to do but to enter his name with me, and I ſhall preſently get him work: or if a bookſeller wants an hand for any particular job, (as a tranſlation-ſpinner, a novel-weaver, a play-wright, a verſe-turner, or the like) upon ſearching my books he will be ſure to meet with a man fit for the buſineſs. In ſhort, any compoſition, in proſe or rhyme, and on any ſubject, may be procured at a minute's warning, by applying to my Office: and I dare ſay, you yourſelf, Mr. TOWN, will be very glad now and then to purchaſe a *Connoiſſeur* of me, whenever the idle fit ſeizes you. If that ſhould happen to come upon you this week, and you have nothing better, you will oblige me by laying the ſcheme here ſent before your readers; and in return, you ſhall have the credit of publiſhing your papers at my Office, as ſoon as it is opened, and welcome.

I am, Sir,

Your humble Servant,

J. WITSELL.

*** *On* Tueſday *laſt was publiſhed* The CONNOISSEUR: *(reviſed and corrected, with a new Tranſlation of the* Mottos *and* Quotations) *in* Two neat Pocket Volumes, *Price* Six Shillings *bound.*

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